

Throughout my career, I have strongly supported initiatives to advance diabetes research, prevention, and education efforts. I commend the work conducted at the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to explore cures and treatments for type 1 and type 2 diabetes and prevent the development of type 2 diabetes.

Americans diagnosed with diabetes, whether insured or not, often face significant barriers in receiving timely, affordable treatment in our current health care system. Congress is currently considering comprehensive reform of our Nation's health care system. This is a historic opportunity to improve access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans and better manage the treatment of chronic diseases. Given the cost of diabetes to our citizens' health and personal finances and to our national economy, we must also continue to push to increase funding for diabetes research and prevention programs. American Diabetes Month provides an opportunity to learn more about the causes and health risks of diabetes and recognize its impact on our Nation and our families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SERGEANT WINFIELD THOMPSON SR.

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the life of SGT Winfield Thompson Sr., an honored member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. When this war hero and South Dakota native passed away November 6, 2009, our State lost a respected tribal member and a wonderful citizen who served as an inspiration to us all.

After entering the U.S. Army in April 1941, SGT Winfield Thompson Sr. was captured by Japanese forces in the Philippines on April 9, 1942. He was forced to march 90 miles over rough terrain with little food and water along with thousands of captured soldiers in what is today known as the Bataan Death March. After his capture, Sergeant Thompson was held at various prison camps and suffered horrible conditions until he was finally liberated in September 1945. Upon his rescue, he stood at attention, saluted, and said, "Sergeant Thompson reporting to duty, Sir." During Sergeant Thompson's extraordinary military career, he was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, American Defense Service ribbon with Bronze Star, Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon with three bronze battle stars, Philippine Defense Ribbon, eight Overseas Service Bars, one Service Stripe and the Good Conduct Medal.

After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in May 1946, Sergeant Thompson returned home and married

Virginia Redday. Winfield and Virginia were blessed with 7 children, 16 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. Winfield was preceded in death by his wife.

SGT Winfield Thompson Sr. embodied South Dakota values with his unwavering devotion to family and country, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family on the loss of this great man.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. ROGERS

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish today to extol the enormous legacy of selfless service, contribution, and, above all, patriotism of an extraordinary Mainer and American, William J. Rogers, and to recognize with the highest esteem the American Legion Post in Auburn, ME, founded by Bill and his fellow veterans, which will be appropriately named the "William J. Rogers American Legion Post 153" in his honor on November 29, 2009. This fitting accolade pays tribute to an individual who devoted his life to serving and defending our country, as well as tirelessly advocating for those who placed their lives in harm's way on our behalf—our courageous veterans.

Bill was one of the great sons of my hometown of Auburn, ME, where my roots run deep. In fact, on a personal note, I am proud to say we both graduated from the same high school, Edward Little. As fate would have it, years later, I enjoyed the pleasure of having Bill and his lovely wife, Connie, as wonderful neighbors of mine on Nottingham Road.

As a young man, Bill answered his country's call to serve during World War II and joined the U.S. Navy, training to be a pilot at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill along with Boston Red Sox legends, Ted Williams and Johnny Pesky Bill's roommate. As a naval aviator, Bill fought heroically and was awarded the Air Medal and Presidential Unit Citation for his wartime service, having deployed to fight in the Pacific, where he valiantly flew F6F Hellcats and Lockheed Venturas.

While Bill departed from active military service in 1946, his commitment to veterans and a lifetime of advocacy on their behalf was just beginning. Bill was a founding member of American Legion Post 153 in Auburn, where he held several offices at both the local and State levels including adjutant, vice commander, and department commander. On the national level, Bill became Maine's national executive committeeman, a member of the liaison committee to the National Public Relations Commission, and from 1965 to 1966 national vice commander. In 1976, Bill received the tremendous distinction of being elected national commander of the American Legion, the first national commander from the State of Maine—and we could not have been more proud.

Traveling more than 300,000 miles throughout the world in all 50 States

and 17 countries, Bill was the voice of Legionnaires and veterans, meeting with leaders such as President Ford and President Carter. Maine and our Nation could not have had a better champion for the American Legion and our brave and noble veterans than Bill Rogers.

Throughout his life, in word and deed, Bill placed service above self and country above self-interest. He held sacred our country's obligation to stand by those who have stood by us, and I cannot imagine a more perfect testament to this outstanding Mainer and American who placed such a high premium on contributing to our Nation than to name Auburn's American Legion Post after him.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1599. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to include in the Federal charter of the Reserve Officers Association leadership positions newly added in its constitution and bylaws.

S. 1860. An act to permit each current member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to serve for 3 terms.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1834. An act to amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2781. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3961. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following